

To my Republican colleagues, who are considering how to vote on this bill today—given the current economic landscape, I urge you to reject the President's radical stand against poor, sick children and join the overwhelming majority of the American public who support this important program.

It has been said that "Health is the first wealth." Well, what does it say about our country when many families that work hard to make ends meet are forced to choose between providing health care for their children and putting food on the table? If we are to give low-income families a chance to succeed in our society, we must give them access to the health care that they need and deserve.

We have known for some time that our nation has 9 million uninsured children, with the vast majority coming from families that cannot access affordable coverage. This number will only grow, as more and more families feel the squeeze of the increasing costs of living and unemployment rates.

Sadly, most of our Republican colleagues turned their backs on these families by voting to sustain President Bush's veto in October. Health coverage for all of our Nation's children should be a priority. Worsening economic conditions only reinforce the need to cover children from low-income families, in which parents are forced to choose between health care and necessities like food and shelter. No parent should have to choose between caring for a sick child and putting food on the table.

I urge an "aye" vote to override this veto.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 28, 2008*

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I was in the Chamber when votes were cast on H.R. 3524, the HOPE VI Improvement and Reauthorization Act of 2007. I listened to the debate, voted on all the amendments and the Motion to Recommit. However, due to circumstances beyond my control, I was unable to cast a vote of "aye" on the final passage of H.R. 3524.

#### CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2007—VETO MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

SPEECH OF

### HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 23, 2008*

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, today the House took up a second vote to override the President's veto of bi-partisan, bicameral legislation to reauthorize and expand the State Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

This bill, H.R. 3963, would maintain coverage for the 6.6 million children currently enrolled and expand coverage to 3.8 million children who are currently eligible but unenrolled.

In the face of a weakening economy, with unemployment rates on the rise, it is becoming

more and more difficult for parents to find affordable health insurance for their children. We know that when fewer Americans are employed, the number of uninsured in our nation will grow.

The vast majority of the American people believe in the value and necessity of the SCHIP program in providing access to health care for low-income children. This bipartisan SCHIP bill is supported by: 81 percent of the American people; 64 Senators (including 17 Republicans); 43 Governors (including 16 Republicans); and more than 270 organizations, including AARP, AMA, Catholic Health Association, and Families USA.

We live in a country where nearly 1 out of every 110 people is a millionaire. Unfortunately, this is the same country where more than 1 out of every 10 children lacks health insurance coverage. In these difficult and uncertain economic times, access to affordable health care for low-income children is more critical than ever.

The children who are enrolled in Texas SCHIP and CHIP programs around the country are from hard-working families. They deserve the opportunity to have access to affordable, accessible, and consistent health care. Healthy children become healthy, productive adults.

Children cannot work and children do not choose to be poor. Children do not choose where they live or the circumstances they are born into. But, as Members of Congress elected to serve all people young and old, we do have a choice. We can choose to improve access to health care for our children and make an investment in the future of our country.

#### CONGRATULATING FRANCES TRUJILLO

### HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 28, 2008*

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents, Mr. Frances Trujillo of Littleton, Colorado. Mr. Trujillo is a leadership and management administrator at Colorado Academy and is a recipient of the prestigious Fulbright Award. This grant is given to promising individuals to aid them in their academic and cultural pursuits abroad.

The Fulbright Program was established by Congress in 1946 and is sponsored by the U.S. State Department. This program was designed to help build mutual understanding between Americans and the global community. Individuals who are awarded this distinction have demonstrated outstanding academic or professional achievement and have proven themselves as leaders in their field.

Madam Speaker, please join me in paying tribute to Mr. Trujillo and wishing him the best in his future endeavors.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF MARK TULCHINSKY OF SOUTH BEND, INDIANA

### HON. JOE DONNELLY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 28, 2008*

Mr. DONNELLY. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of Mark Tulchinsky, a leader in the South Bend Community School Corporation, a mentor, father, educator, and beloved member of the community. Mr. Tulchinsky passed away while working in his office at Tarkington Traditional School on January 22, 2008.

Tulchinsky's peers describe him as "a good friend and an excellent principal." He was the perfect example of an empathetic and kind-hearted principal as well as a tremendous friend and mentor. Whether it was taking part in school sports or activities or dealing with serious situations and discipline issues within his school, Tulchinsky was able to handle his position as a leader with poise and compassion.

Former students and colleagues said he had an uncanny ability to remember the names and faces of students, even decades after he taught them. We should all return this favor, by remembering and thanking him for his service to the young people of his community. There is no doubt that he positively impacted the lives of countless individuals. Throughout his life, he dedicated himself to bettering the community through volunteering and mentoring.

After graduating from Adams High school in South Bend, Tulchinsky attended the University of Chicago where he earned a bachelor's degree in history. He then returned to his hometown and began his lifelong career in education. Through the South Bend Community School Corporation, Tulchinsky began teaching at Perley Elementary in 1968. He taught for a few years as a fourth grade teacher, and in the process furthered his education by earning a master's degree in 1974 from the University of Notre Dame. Later, Tulchinsky gave back to the Notre Dame community by operating the shot clock for Notre Dame men's and women's basketball teams as well as timekeeping at Notre Dame home football games.

In 1979, Tulchinsky began his lengthy career in administration, first serving as assistant principal for Jefferson School. He went on to serve as a principal for McKinley, Perley, Jefferson, Monroe, and Tarkington Schools. Throughout his 39-year career in education, students called him by the affectionate nickname of Mr. T. In addition to his service in education, Tulchinsky was a big supporter of local athletic teams. He officiated for both basketball and football games, including the IHSA Class 2A football championship in 1983. His dedication to both athletics and education was evident in 1994 when he suffered a heart attack while officiating for basketball; he returned to teaching after his recovery.

Tulchinsky is survived by his wife of 38 years, Nan; three grown children, Peter, Daniel, and Sarah; four grandchildren, Abbey, Emma, Payton, and Jacob; as well as a myriad of students whose lives he touched. He will be greatly missed for his dedication to teaching, his devotion to the community, and his warm love for all those around him.